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15 APR 1964
MADRAS

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, the 23rd January 1964.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at half past ten of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Sri Kapaleeswarar Devasthanam

* 33 *Q*.—SRI L. S. KARAYALAR: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of residential houses owned by Sri Kapaleeswarar Devasthanam, Mylapore, as on 1st April 1963;

(*b*) the income derived from such buildings and the expenditure incurred therefor during 1962–63;

(*c*) the number of house sites owned by the Devasthanam on which residential buildings can be built; and

(*d*) the steps, if any, taken to construct houses in the sites?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister): (*a*) 110 houses.

(*b*) Income—Rs. 78,150·20.

Expenditure—Rs. 8,719·43.

(*c*) Land measuring 21 cawnies, 10 grounds and 2,201 square feet is suitable for construction of residential buildings. The number of house sites available can be determined only after a layout is prepared for these lands.

(*d*) In respect of vacant sites in the possession of the temple, proposals are being submitted by the temple authorities to the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Administration) Department for construction of houses.

In respect of house sites already occupied by tenants by paying rent, proposals are being submitted by the temple authorities to the Commissioner for sale by forming co-operative societies.

In respect of house sites encroached upon by squatters, steps are being taken by the temple authorities to evict them.

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR: Compared to the number of houses owned by the Devasthanam, the rent obtained is very small. Will the Devasthanam authorities try to increase the rent?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I do not think the suggestion may be popular.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR: On what basis do these buildings come under rent control? How is the rent determined? Is there any permanent basis for fixation of rent?

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THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The rent is determined by the House Rent Controller, and they are all subject to the House Rent Control Act.

* 34 *Q.*—SRI L. S. KARAYALAR : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Kapaleeswarar Devasthanam has constructed shops in the North Mada Street, Mylapore; and

(*b*) if so, (i) the number of shops constructed, (ii) the cost of construction and (iii) the procedure adopted by the temple authorities in the matter of construction?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (i) 11 Shops.

(ii) Rs. 25,538.

(iii) The works were executed departmentally after calling for tenders for purchase of materials and on labour contract.

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR : How were the shops let out?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : They have been given to shopkeepers and the amount to be realised is Rs. 1,245 per mensem.

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR : My question has not been answered. How were the shops let out?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : They are let out to the shopkeepers who apply.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Are they given to the highest bidder or is any favouritism shown in this?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Unless in these matters a specific question is put as to how a particular shop has been let out, it will be impossible for Government to give information.

Fire accidents

* 35 *Q.*—SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR (on behalf of Sri K. S. Abdul Wahab) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of fire accidents in the State during the year 1962–63;

(*b*) the number of residential houses affected; and

(*c*) the relief measures taken by the Government?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) 2,491.

(*b*) 1,191.

(*c*) A sum of Rs. 4,08,810·36 nP. was spent by way of grant of cash relief to the victims of the fire accident.